

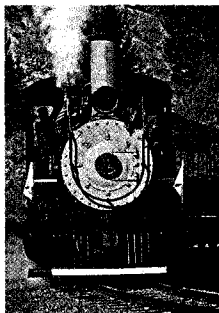
# Montana Heritage Commission

## *We Share Montana History*

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### **Mission:**

Our job is to preserve, maintain, protect and develop the state owned historic resources that we manage in Virginia City, Nevada City & Reeder's Alley.



### **HB 5 Funding - Key Points**

- 1. The State has a responsibility to protect and maintain these historic buildings.**
- 2. Our site is a major economic benefit to southwest Montana.**
- 3. State funding is critical for attracting other private and federal funds.**

### **Visitor Services**

- We operate 7 day a week, lease space to over 25 private businesses, operate a railroad; and service tours, an 800 # and website.
- **Virginia City & Nevada City are the 5th most visited tourist destination in Montana.** (ITRR, Sept. 2006)
- State assets in our collection have increased in value to over \$17 million.

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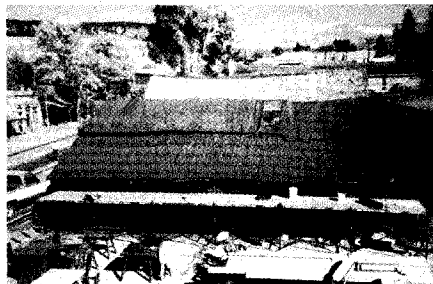
### **Education & Interpretation**

- 100s of living history volunteers provide an authentic experience for visitors.
- History Camp attracts kids from across Montana.
- Volunteers provide assistance on preservation projects, maintenance and site security.

*Virginia City \* Nevada City \* Reeder's Alley*

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### **Building Preservation**

<< Here, Field school students help replace a sill log.

- We manage 248 buildings in Virginia and Nevada Cities.
- The casual observer does not “see” the improvements; as restoration and structural supports are masked.

*<< these photos show “before and after” work restoring the Contents Corner Building.*

- All our work is done to State and US Interior historic preservation standards.
- A huge backlog of preservation and building stabilization work remains.
- Our team works on stone, brick, log and frame construction, and each project is unique and requires a custom effort.

The new roof “looks” old. Reused materials and masking are used to retain historic character.

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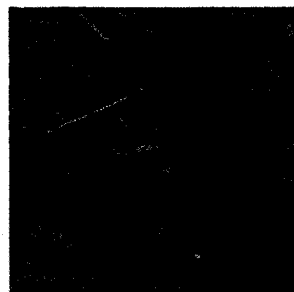
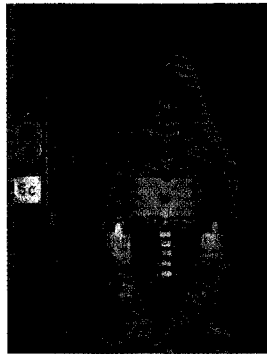
### Curatorial & Archaeology

- Completed catalog & inventory of artifacts.
- Archaeology assessment is part of every building preservation effort.
- We restore and preserve items that are rare or threatened as funding permits.
- Many collections are used by concessionaires and "living history" volunteers.

<< 1910 Gypsy Fortune Teller, restored.



The MHC manages the largest public collection of music machines in the Nation. Most still operate and are open for public use and enjoyment.



### Maintenance

- We operate and maintain a railroad.
- Upgrade water and sewer connections.
- Added fire protection and hydrants.
- Snow removal.
- 1000s of volunteer hours leverage staff resources.

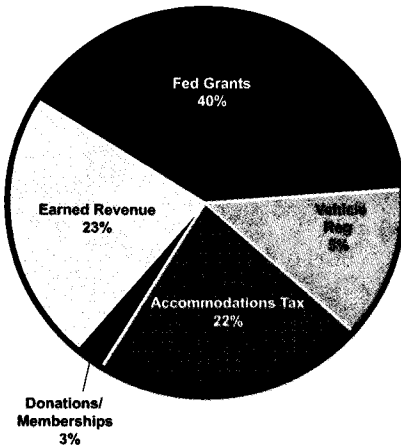


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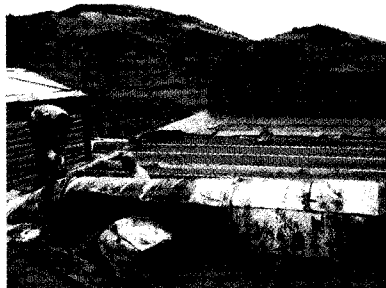
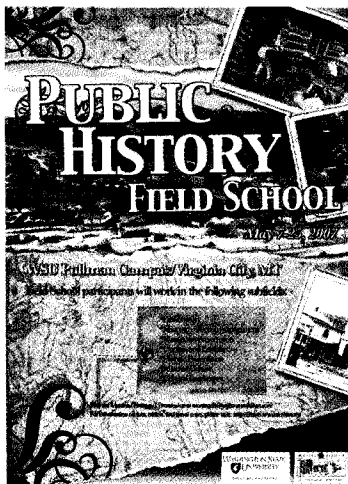
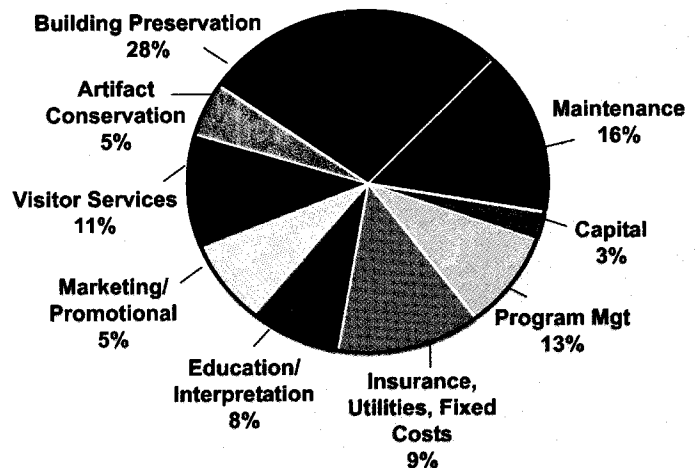
## *We Share Montana History*

CY 2005 & 2006

### Revenue



### Expenditures



MHC preservation crew lends a hand with a project in Bannack.

### Growth Opportunities

- *The Virginia City Institute:* Our sites are used as a working “research lab” - we offer training in masonry/log restoration, artifact care, stabilization techniques & more...to other agencies in the U.S.
- *Building Ties to Education:* A new partnership with Washington State University is attracting national experts to a new field school program.
- *Expanding Partnerships:*  
We have strong working relationships with the National Park Service, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, MT Fish Wildlife & Parks, Universities and many others.

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